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AFFIDAVITS AND CERTIFICATES,

DISPROVING THE STATEMENTS AND AFFIDAVITS CONTAINED IN JOHN C. BENNETT'S LETTERS. NAUVOO AUG. 31, 1842.

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

We the undersigned, members of the city council of the City of Nauvoo, testify, that John C. Bennett was not under duress at the time that he testified before the city council May 19th 1842 concerning Joseph Smith's innocence, virtue, and pure teaching—his statements that he has lately made concerning this matter are false,—there was no excitement at the time, nor was he in any wise threatened, menaced or intimidated, his appearance at the city council was voluntary, he asked the privilege of speaking, which was granted; after speaking for some time on the city affairs, Joseph Smith asked him if he knew any thing bad concerning his public or private character, he then delivered these statements contained in the testimony voluntarily, and of his own free will, and went of his own accord as free as any member of the council.

We do further testify that there is no such thing as a Danite Society in this city nor any combination, other than the Masonic Lodge, of which we have any knowledge.

WILSON LAW, GEO. A. SMITH,
JOHN TAYLOR, GEO. W. HARRIS,
W. WOODRUFF, N. K. WHITNEY,
VINSON KNIGHT, BRIGHAM YOUNG,
H. C. KIMBALL, CHARLES C. RICH,
JOHN P. GREEN, ORSON SPENCER,
WILLIAM MARKS.

Subscribed and sworn to, by the persons whose names appear to the foregoing affidavit, this 20th day of July, A. D. 1842; except N. K. Whitney, who subscribed and affirmed to the foregoing this day, before me.

DANIEL H. WELLS,
Justice of the Peace, within and for Hancock County, Illinois.

Daniel H. Wells, Esq. is an old resident in this place, and is not a Mormon.

AFFIDAVIT OF HYRUM SMITH.

On the seventeenth day of May, 1842, having been made acquainted with some of the conduct of John C. Bennett, which was given in testimony under oath before Alderman G. W. Harris, by several females, who testified that John C. Bennett endeavored to seduce them and accomplished his designs by saying it was right; that it was one of the mysteries of God, which was to be revealed when the people was strong enough in the faith to bear such mysteries—that it was perfectly right to have illicit intercourse with females, provided no one knew it but themselves, vehemently trying them from day to day, to yield to his passions, bringing witnesses of his own clan to testify that there was such revelations and such commandments, and that it was of God; also stating that he would be responsible for their sins, if there was any; and that he would give them medicine to procure abortions, providing they should become pregnant. One of these witnesses, a married woman that he attended upon in his professional capacity whilst she was sick, stated that he made proposals to her of a similar nature; he told her that he wished her husband was dead, and that if he was dead, he would marry her and clear out with her; he also begged her permission to give him medicine to that effect; he did try to give him medicine, but he would not take it—on interrogating her what she thought of such teaching, she replied, she was sick at the time, and had to be lifted in and out of her bed like a child. Many other acts as criminal were reported at the time. On becoming acquainted with these facts, I was determined to prosecute him, and bring him to justice. Some person knowing my determination, having informed him of it, he sent to me Wm. Law and Brigham Young, to request an interview with me and see if there could not be a reconciliation made. I told them I thought there could not be, his crimes were so heinous; but told them I was willing to see him; he immediately came to see me; he begged on me to forgive him this once, and not prosecute him and expose him, he said he was guilty, and did acknowledge the crimes that were alleged against him; he seemed to be sorry that he had committed such acts, and wept much, and desired that it might not be made public, for it would ruin him forever; he wished me to wait; but I was determined to bring him to justice, and declined listening to his entreaties; he then wished me to wait until he could have an interview with the masonic fraternity; he also wanted an interview with Br. Joseph; he wished to know of me, if I would forgive him, and desist from my intentions, if he could obtain their forgiveness; and requested the privilege of an interview immediately. I granted him that privilege as I was acting as master *pro. tem.* at that time; he also wished an interview first with Br. Joseph; at that time Brother Joseph was crossing the yard from the house to the store, he immediately came to the store and met Dr. Bennett on the way; he reached out his hand to Brother Joseph and said, will you forgive me, weeping at the time; he said Br. Joseph, I am guilty, I acknowledge it, and I beg of you not to expose me, for it will ruin me; Joseph replied, Doctor! why are you using my name to cary on your hellish wickedness? have I ever taught you that fornication and adultery was right, or poligamy or any such practices? He said you never did. Did I ever teach you any thing that was not virtuous—that was iniquitous, either in public or private? He said you never did. Did you ever know me do any thing unvirtuous or unrighteous in my conduct or actions at any time, either in public or in private? He said, I did not; are you willing to make oath to this before an Alderman of the city? he said I am willing to do so. Joseph said Doctor go into my office, and write what you can in conscience subscribe your name to, and I will be satisfied—I will, he said, and went into the office. and I went with him, and he requested pen ink and paper of Mr. Clayton, who was acting clerk in that office, and was also secretary *pro. tem.* for the Nauvoo Lodge U. D. Mr. Clayton gave him paper, pen and ink, and he stood at the desk and wrote the following article which was published in the 12th No. of the Wasp; sworn to and subscribed before Daniel H. Wells, Alderman, 17th day of May A. D. 1842; he called in Br. Joseph, and read it to him and asked him if that would do, he said it would, he then swore to it as before mentioned; the article was as follows:

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
City of Nauvoo. }

Personally appeared before me, Daniel H. Wells, an Alderman of said city of Nauvoo, John C. Bennett, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith: that he never was taught any thing in the least contrary to the strictest principles of the Gospel, or of virtue, or of the laws of God, or man, under any occasion either directly or indirectly, in word or deed, by Joseph Smith; and that he never knew the said Smith to countenance any improper conduct whatever, either in public or private; and that he never did teach to me in private that an illegal illicit intercourse with females was, under any circumstances, justifiable, and that I never knew him so to teach others.

JOHN C. BENNETT.

Sworn to, and subscribed, before me, this 17th day of May, 1842.

DANIEL H. WELLS,
Alderman.

During all this intercourse, I was present with him, and there was no threats used, but every thing was as peaceable as could be under existing circumstances, and immediately convened the masonic lodge, it being about four o'clock, P. M. he then came into the lodge and charges of a similar nature were preferred against him. He admitted they were true, in the presence of about sixty in number. He arose and begged the privilege of speaking to the brethren; he acknowledged his wickedness, and begged for the brethren to forgive still longer, and he called God and angels to witness that he never would be guilty of the like crimes again—he would lay his hand on the Bible and swear that he would not be guilty of such crimes. He seemed to be very penitent, and wept much; his penitence excited sympathy in the minds of the brethren, and they withdrew the charges for the time being, until he could be heard upon other charges which had been preferred against him by the members of the Pickaway Lodge, of Ohio, through the communications of the Grand Master, A. Jonas. After this we found him to be an expelled mason, in consequence of his rascally conduct from the Pickaway Lodge, in Ohio. Still after all this we found him guilty of similar crimes again; and it was found to our satisfaction that he was conspiring against the peace and safety of the citizens of this state—after learning these facts we exposed him to the public; he then immediately left the place abruptly; threatening to drink the hearts blood of many of this place. Previous to this last disclosure, the hand of fellowship was withdrawn from him May 11th, 1842, by the first presidency, six days previous to the time he pretended to withdraw from the church which will be seen published in the Times and Seasons, June 15th, 1842. I was also present at the time when he gave this testimony before the City Council, as printed in the Times and Seasons, July 1st, 1842, on page 841 which reads as follows:

Dr. John C. Bennett, ex-Mayor, was then called upon by the Mayor to state if he knew aught against him; when Mr. Bennett replied; I know what I am about, and the heads of the church know what they are about, I expect. I have no difficulty with the heads of the church. I publicly avow that any one who has said that General Joseph Smith has given me authority to hold illicit intercourse with women is a liar in the face of God, those who have said it are damned liars; they are infernal liars. He never, either in public or private, gave me any such authority or license, and any person who states it is a scoundrel and a liar. I have heard it said that I should become a second Avard by withdrawing from the church, and that I was at variance with the heads and should use an influence against them because I resigned the office of Mayor: this is false. I have no difficulty with the heads of the church, and I intend to continue with you, and hope the time may come when I may be restored to full confidence, and fellowship, and my former standing in the church; and that my conduct may be such as to warrant my restoration—and should the time ever come that I may have an opportunity to test my faith it will then be known whether I am a traitor or a true man."

Joseph Smith then asked; "Will you please state definitely whether you know any thing against my character either in public or private?"

Gen. Bennett answered; "I do not; in all my intercourse with Gen. Smith, in public and in private, he has been strictly virtuous."

Aldermen, WILSON LAW,
N. K. WHITNEY, JOHN TAYLOR,
HIRAM KIMBALL, BRIGHAM YOUNG,
ORSON SPENCER, JOHN P. GREEN,
GUST. HILLS, H. C. KIMBALL,
G. W. HARRIS, W. WOODRUFF,
Councillors, GEO. A. SMITH.
WILLARD RICHARDS,
JAMES SLOAN, Recorder.

May 19th, 1842.

I know he was not under duress at the time for his testimony; it was given free and voluntarially, after requesting the privilege of the council to speak (which was granted him) on matters pertaining to the city ordinances, while speaking, or before he took his seat, he was requested by the Mayor of the City, Joseph Smith, to state to the council if he knew aught against him;—and he replied according to the above.

I also know that he had no private intercourse with Joseph in the preparation of the 17th day, as he stated in his letter printed in the Sangamo Journal, for the lodge was convened on that day, and I had the keys of the doors in my possession from 7 o'clock A. M. until 6 o'clock P. M., and it was when the lodge called off for refreshment during recess that I had the interview with him, at which time he wrote the affidavit and subscribed it in my presence, and I was with him during the whole time from his first coming to me until he signed it and until the lodge convened again at 4 o'clock.

HYRUM SMITH.

Sworn to, and subscribed before me, July 23, 1842.

GEO. W. HARRIS,
Alderman of the city of Nauvoo.

AFFIDAVIT OF WM. LAW.

As John C. Bennett, has become our open enemy, and is engaged in circulating falsehoods of the blackest character, I deem it duty to make the following statement of facts:

John C. Bennett states in the Sangamo Journal that the withdrawal of the hand of fellowship by the First Presidency and the Twelve, was after he had withdrawn from the church. I presume the notice of our withdrawal was not published till after he withdrew, but that does not prove his statement true, for I hereby testify that I signed the article in question several days before he withdrew, I believe it was on the evening of the 11th day of May, some four or five days afterwards I had some conversation with J. C. Bennett and intimated to him that such a thing was concluded upon, which intimation I presume led him to withdraw immediately. I told him we could not bear with his conduct any longer—that there were many witnesses against him, and that they stated that he gave Joseph Smith as authority for his illicit intercourse with females. J. C. Bennett declared to me before God that Joseph Smith had never taught him such doctrines, and that he never told any one that he (Joseph Smith) had taught any such things, and that any one who said so told base lies; nevertheless, he said he had done wrong, that he would not deny, but he would deny that he had used Joseph Smith's name to accomplish his designs on any one: stating that he had no need of that, for that he could succeed without telling them that Joseph approbated such conduct.

These statements he made to me of his own free will, in a private conversation which we had on the subject; there was no compulsion or threats used on my part; we had always been on good terms, and I regretted exceedingly that he had taken such a course; he plead with me to intercede for him, assuring me that he would turn from his iniquity, and never would be guilty of such crimes again.—He said that if he were exposed it would break his mother's heart—that she was old, and if such things reached her ears it would bring her down with sorrow to the grave. I accordingly went to Joseph Smith and plead with him to spare Bennett from public exposure, on account of his mother. On many occasions I heard him acknowledge his guilt, and beg not to be destroyed in the eyes of the public, and that he would never act so again, "So help him God." From such promises and oaths, I was induced to bear with him longer than I should have done.

On one occasion I heard him state before the city Council that Joseph Smith had never taught him any unrighteous principles, of any kind, and that if any one says that he ever said that Joseph taught such things they are base liars, or words to that effect. This statement he made voluntarily; he came into the council room about an hour after the council opened, and made the statement, not under duress, but of his own free will, as many witnesses can testify.

On a former occasion he came to me and told me that a friend of his was about to be tried by the High Council, for the crime of adultery, and that he feared his name would be brought into question.—He entreated me to go to the council and prevent his name from being brought forward; as, said he, "I am not on trial, and I do not want my mother to hear of these things, for she is a good woman."

I would further state that I do know from the amount of evidence which stands against J. C. Bennett, and from his own acknowledgements, that he is a most corrupt, base, and vile man; and that he has published many base falsehoods since we withdrew the hand of fellowship from him.

About the time that John C. Bennett was brought before the Masonic Lodge he came to me and desired that I would go in company with B. Young, to Hyrum Smith and entreat of him to spare him—that he wished not to be exposed—that he wished to live as a private citizen, and would cease from all his follys &c. I advised him to go to Texas, and when he returned, if he would behave well we would reinstate him. He said he had no means to take him to Texas, and still insisted on B. Young and myself to intercede for him.

WM. LAW.

Sworn to and subscribed before me a Justice of the Peace, within and for the county of Hancock, State of Illinois, July 20th 1842.

DANIEL H. WELLS,

State of Illinois, } ss.
county of Hancock. }

I hereby certify that on the 17th day of May last John C. Bennett subscribed and swore to the affidavit over my signature of that date, and published in the Wasp: after writing the same in my presence in the office where I was employed in taking depositions of witnesses. The door of the room was open and free for all or any person to pass or repass. After signing and being qualified to the affidavit aforesaid, he requested to speak with me at the door; I followed him out—he told me some persons had been lying about him and showed me a writing granting him the privilege to withdraw from the church, and remarked that the matter was perfectly understood between him and the heads of the church; and that he had resigned the Mayor's office and should resign the office he held in the Legion, *but* as there was a court Martial to be held in a few days Joseph Smith desired that he would wait until that was over.

I was in the City Council on the 19th day of May last—I there heard him say what has been published concerning the teachings of Joseph Smith and of his own course. I afterwards met him in company with Col. Francis M. Higbee, he then stated that he was going to be the candidate, (meaning candidate for the Legislature) and Joseph and Hyrum Smith were going in for him: said you know it will be better for me not to be bothered with Mayor's office, Legion, Mormon, or any thing else. During all this time if he was under duress, or fear, he must have had a good faculty for concealing it, for he was at liberty to go and come when and where he pleased, so far as I am capable of judging. I know that I saw him in different parts of the city, even after he had made these statements, transacting business as usual, and said he was going to complete some business pertaining to the Mayor's office; and I think did attend to work on the streets.

I was always personally friendly with him, after I became acquainted with him. I never heard him say anything derogatory to the character of Joseph Smith, until after he had been exposed by said Smith, on the public stand in Nauvoo.

DANIEL H. WELLS.

July 22, A. D. 1842.

Sworn to and subscribed before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the City of Nauvoo, in said county, this 22nd day of July, 1842.

GUSTAVUS HILLS, (L. S.)
J. P. & Alderman.

MR. EDITOR—

Sir: From a perusal of the St. Louis papers I find from an article signed J. C. Bennett, stating that all who are friends to Mr. Joseph Smith he considers his enemies. As a matter of course I must be one, for I am and have been for a long time the personal friend of Joseph Smith; and I will here say that I have never yet seen or known any thing against him that I should change my mind. It is true many reports have been and are put in circulation by his enemies, and for political or religious effect, that upon investigation are like the dew before the morning sun vanish away, because there is no real substance in them.

Could Dr. Bennett expect any man acquainted with all the circumstances, and matters of fact which were developed both here and from abroad, respecting his conduct and character, previous to his leaving this place, for one moment to believe him—I answer NO! he could not. And all his affidavits, that came from any person entitled to credit, (I say entitled to credit, because some there are who are not entitl

credit, as Dr. Bennett very well knows) are n amount nothing at all, when summed up, and render no person worthy of death or bonds.

F. M. Higbee's knowledge concerning the murder of a prisoner in Missouri, I am authorized to say, by F. M. Higbee that he knows of no such thing—that no prisoner was ever killed in Missouri, to the best of his knowledge. And I also hear the same testimony, that there never was any prisoner killed there, neither were we ever charged with any such thing, according to the best of my recollection.

ELIAS HIGBEE.

July 22 1842.

This is to certify that I do not know of the murder of any prisoner in Missouri, as above alluded to.

F. M. HIGBEE.

July, 22, 1841.

LETTER TO ORSON PRATT.

July 23, 1842.

Br. Orson Pratt, Sir:—Considering it a duty upon me I now communicate unto you some things relative to Dr. Bennett and your wife that came under the observation of myself and wife, which I think would be satisfactory to the mind of any man could he but realize the conduct of those two individuals while under my notice. I would have been glad to have kept forever in silence if it could have been so and been just. I took your wife into my house because she was destitute of a house, Oct. 6, 1840, and from the first night, until the last, with the exception of night it being nearly a month, the Dr. was there as sure as the night came, and generally two or three times a day—for the first two or three nights he left about 9 o'clock—after that he remained later, sometimes till after midnight; what his conversation was I could not tell, as they sat close together, he leaning on her lap, whispering continually or talking very low—we generally went to bed and had one or two naps before he left. After being at my house nearly a month she was furnished with a house by Dr. Foster, which she lived in until sometime about the first of June, when she was turned out of the house and came to my house again, and the Dr. came also as before. One night they took their chairs out of doors and remained there as we supposed until 12 o'clock or after; at another time they went over to the house where you now live and came back after dark, or about that time. We went over several times late in the evening while she lived in the house of Dr. Foster, and were most sure to find Dr. Bennett and your wife together, as it were, man and wife. Two or three times we found little Orson lying on the floor and the bed apparently reserved for the Dr. and herself—she observing that since a certain time he had rather sleep on the floor than with her.

I am surprised to hear of her crying because Br. Joseph attempted to kiss her as she stated, even if he did do it; for she could let a certain man smack upon her mouth and face half a dozen times or more in my house without making up the first wry face. I will not mention his name at present.

There are many more things which she has stated herself to my wife, which would go to show more strongly the feelings, connexion, and the conduct of the two individuals. I shall not testify of these things at present for certain reasons, but can let you know them if you feel disposed to hear them.

As to the lamb which Dr. Bennett speaks of, I killed it, and kept a quarter of it for my own use, and saw the Dr. and Mrs. Pratt eat of the balance; the Dr. told me he would like to have me save enough blood to make a French pudding, which I believe Mrs. Pratt spoke of afterwards and said it looked so that she could not eat it.

I had no instructions to save the entrails, and the Dr. was not present to save them himself, consequently his statements that he burned them on twelve stones is a falsehood, for the hogs eat them.

Your Friend,

STEPHEN H. GODDARD.

I certify that the above statement of my husband is true, according to the best of my knowledge.

ZERUIAH N. GODDARD.

Sworn to before me July 23d 1842.

GEO. W. HARRIS,

Alderman of the City of Nauvoo.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. GODDARD.

Dr. Bennett came to my house one night about 12 o'clock, and sat on or beside the bed where Mrs. Pratt was and cursed and swore very profanely at her; she told me next day that the Dr. was quick tempered and was mad at her, but gave no other reason. I concluded from circumstances that she had promised to meet him somewhere and had disappointed him; on another night I remonstrated with the Dr. and asked him what Orson Pratt would think, if he should know that you were so fond of his wife, and holding her hand so much; the Dr. replied that he could pull the wool over Orson's eyes.

Mrs. Pratt stated to me that Dr. Bennett told her, that he could cause abortion with perfect safety to the mother, at any stage of pregnancy, and that he had frequently destroyed and removed infants before their time to prevent exposure of the parties, and that he had instruments for that purpose, &c.

My husband and I were frequently at Mrs. Pratt's and stayed till after 10 o'clock in the night, and Dr. Bennett still remained there with her and her little child alone at that late hour.

On one occasion I came suddenly into the room where Mrs. Pratt and the Dr. were; she was lying on the bed and the Dr. was taking his hands out of her bosom; he was in the habit of sitting on the bed where Mrs. Pratt was lying, and lying down over her.

I would further state that from my own observation, I am satisfied that their conduct was anything but virtuous, and I know Mrs. Pratt is not a woman of truth, and I believe the statements which Dr. Bennett made concerning Joseph Smith are false, and fabricated for the purpose of covering his own iniquities, and enabling him to practise his base designs on the innocent.

ZERUIAH N. GODDARD.

Subscribed before me one of the alderman of the City of Nauvoo, and sworn to this 28th day of August 1842.

GEO. W. HARRIS,

Alderman of the City of Nauvoo.

AFFIDAVIT OF J. B. BACKENSTOS.

State of Illinois } ss.
Hancock County. }

Personally appeared before me Ebenezer Robinson an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for said county, J. B. Backenstos, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that some time during last winter, he accused Doctor John C. Bennett, with having an illicit intercourse with Mrs. Orson Pratt, and some others, when said Bennett replied that she made a first rate go, and from personal observations I should have taken said Doctor Bennett and Mrs Pratt as man and wife, had I not known to the contrary, and further this deponent saith not.

J. B. BACKENSTOS.

Sworn to, and subscribed, before me this 28th day of July, 1842.

E. ROBINSON, J. P.

TESTIMONY OF J. McILWRICK.

I do know that the sister of my wife, Martha Brotherton, is a deliberate liar, and also a wilful inventor of lies; and that she has also to my certain knowledge at sundry times, circulated lies of a base kind, concerning those whom she knew to be innocent of what she alleged against them. She has also stooped to many actions which would be degrading to persons of common decency, such as lying on the top of a young man when he was in bed, and seeking Aristotle's work from a young seaman's box.

And I further state that I am acquainted with Gen. Joseph Smith, President Brigham Young, and Elder Heber C. Kimball, having had the privilege of being intimate with the latter gentleman for several months in England. And I believe them to be men who lead holy and virtuous lives, and men who exhibit a philanthropic spirit to all the human family without respect of persons; and I also know for a truth that the forenamed Martha Brotherton has wickedly endeavored to injure the character of these gentlemen; and many besides myself can testify that the statements which she has reported in different places, are quite contrary to those she related here.

JOHN McILWRICK.

We Elizabeth Brotherton, and Mary McIlwrick, sisters of the said Martha Brotherton, concur in the above sentiments.

ELIZABETH BROTHERTON.
MARY McILWRICK.

Sworn to, and subscribed, before me, this 27th day of August, A. D. 1842.

E. ROBINSON,

Justice of Peace, for Hancock Co. Ill.

AFFIDAVIT OF H. C. KIMBALL.

State of Illinois, } ss.
county of Hancock. }

Personally appeared before me, Ebenezer Robinson, a justice of the peace, for said county, Heber C. Kimball, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that the affidavit of Miss Martha Brotherton, which has been published in sundry newspapers, is false and without foundation in truth, and further this deponant saith not.

HEBER C. KIMBALL.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of August, A. D. 1842.

E. ROBINSON, J. P.

AFFIDAVIT OF BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Nauvoo, Aug. 25, 1842.

I do hereby testify that the affidavit of Miss Martha Brotherton that is going the rounds in the political and religious papers, is a base falsehood, with regard to any private intercourse or unlawful conduct or conversation with me.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of August, A. D., 1842.

E. ROBINSON, J. P.

State of Illinois, } ss.
county of Hancock. }

Personally came before me. Ebenezer Robinson, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the county aforesaid, Mrs. Vilate Kimball, wife of Heber C. Kimball who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that the conversation said to have taken place between her and her husband in presence of Martha Brotherton is false: that nothing of the kind is stated in the affidavit of the 13th July 1842, made by the said Martha Brotherton, at St Louis, ever occurred, but is a base fabrication, and further this deponent saith not.

VILATE KIMBALL.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of Aug. 1842.

E. ROBINSON, J. P.

AFFIDAVIT OF J. C. BENNETT.

State of Illinois, } ss.
City of Nauvoo }

Personally appeared before me, Daniel H. Wells, an Alderman of said city of Nauvoo, John C. Bennett who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he never was taught any thing in the least contrary to the strictest principles of the gospel or of virtue, or of the laws of God or man, under any circumstances or upon any occasion either directly or indirectly, in word or deed, by Joseph Smith, and that he never knew the said Smith to countenance any improper conduct whatsoever, either in public or private, and that he never did teach to me, in private that an illegal, illicit intercourse with females was under any circumstance justifiable, and that I never knew him so to teach others.

JOHN C. BENNETT.

Sworn to, and subscribed, before me this 17th day of May, A. D. 1842.

DANIEL H. WELLS,

Alderman.

AFFIDAVIT OF WM. CLAYTON.

State of Illinois, }
City of Nauvoo. }

Personally appeared before me Daniel H. Wells, an alderman of said city of Nauvoo, William Clayton, who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith; that he saw John C. Bennett write the affidavit signed by said Bennett, and dated 17th day of May A. D. 1842, and further that he was present and saw and heard the oath administered to said Bennett by Daniel H. Wells upon said affidavit, and that he is confident that said Bennett made the affidavit of his own free will, and that no influence whatever from any person was used over said Bennett at the time.

WILLIAM CLAYTON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of July A. D. 1842.

DANIEL H. WELLS, J. P.

AFFIDAVIT OF C. L. HIGBEE.

State of Illinois }
City of Nauvoo. }

Personally appeared before me Daniel H. Wells, an alderman of said city, C. L. Higbee, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that he never was taught any thing in the least contrary to the strictest principles of the gospel or of virtue, of the laws of God or of man, under any circumstances or upon any occasion, either directly or indirectly, in word or deed by Joseph Smith, and that he never knew said Smith to countenance any improper conduct whatever, either in public or in private, and that he never did teach me in private or public that an illicit intercourse with females was, under any circumstances justifiable and that he never knew him so to teach others.

C. L. HIGBEE,

Sworn to, and subscribed, before me this 17th day of May, 1842.

DANIEL H. WELLS.

Alderman.

AFFIDAVIT OF STEPHEN MARKHAM.

State of Illinois, } ss.
county of Hancock. }

Personally came before me, Ebenezer Robinson, a Justice of the Peace in and for said county, Stephen Markham, who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith, that on the day of A. D. 1842, he was at the house of Sidney Rigdon, in the city of Nauvoo, where he saw Miss Nancy Rigdon laying on a bed, and John C. Bennett was sitting by the side of the bed, near the foot, in close conversation with her; deponant also saw many vulgar, unbecoming and indecent sayings and motions pass between them, which satisfied deponant that they were guilty of unlawful and illicit intercourse, with each other.

STEPHEN MARKHAM.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of August, A. D. 1842.

EBENEZER ROBINSON, J. P.

SIDNEY RIGDON'S LETTER.

Nauvoo, Aug. 27th, 1842.

Editor of the Wasp.

Dear Sir: I am fully authorized by my daughter, Nancy, to say to the public through the medium of your paper, that the letter which has appeared in the Sangamo Journal, making part of General Bennett's letters to said paper, purporting to have been written by Mr. Joseph Smith to her, was unauthorised by her, and that she never said to Gen. Bennett or any other person, that said letter was written by said Mr. Smith, nor in his hand writing, but by another person, and in another person's hand writing. She further wishes me to say, that she never at any time authorised Gen. Bennett, to use her name in the public papers, as he has done, which has been greatly to the wounding of her feelings, and she considers that the obtruding of her name before the public in the manner in which it has been done, to say the best of it, is a flagrant violation of the rules of gallantry, and cannot avoid to insult her feelings, which she wishes the public to know. I would further state that Mr. Smith denied to me the authorship of that letter.

SIDNEY RIGDON.

CERTIFICATES.

Inasmuch as John C. Bennett has called upon me through the Sangamo Journal to come out and confirm the statements which he has made concerning Joseph Smith and others, I take this opportunity of saying to the public, that I know many of his statements to be false, and that I believe them all to be the offspring of a base and corrupt heart and without the least shadaw of truth, and further that he has used my name without my permission. I believe him to be a vile and wicked adulterous man, who pays no regard to the principles of truth or righteousness, and is unworthy the confidence of a just community. I would further state that I know of no Order in the church which admits of a plurality of wives, and do not believe that Joseph Smith ever taught such a doctrine, and further, that my faith in the doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and in Joseph Smith, is unshaken.

WILLIAM MARKS.

Nauvoo, July 26, 1842.

Mr. Bennett seems to place very much confidence in the veracity, integrity and honor of the above individuals, we hope that he will now believe their testimony.

As there seems to be some foolish notions that I have been engaged with J. C. Bennett, in the difficulties between him and some of the citizens of this place, I merely say in reply to such idle and vain reports that they are without foundation in truth.

SIDNEY RIGDON.

Nauvoo, July 25, 1842.

Inasmuch as J. C. Bennett has referred the people to me for testimony against Prest. Joseph Smith, I take this opportunity to state before the public that I know nothing derogatory to his character, either as a christian, or a moral man.

Mr. Bennett made use of my name without my knowledge or consent.

PAMELA M. MICHAEL.

Being called on for what I know in regard to Dr. J. C. Bennett's and wife's character, I give it as follows:—

I knew them in Hocking City, Athens county, Ohio. I lived in the neighborhood with them about one year; the year of 1837. I consider Bennett a very bad character, and not worthy the name of a gentleman; and on the other hand, I consider his wife a very respectable woman. They lived at the same place at the time they parted, which was in the year following. I heard it from almost every person in the town, that she left him in consequence of his ill treatment of her at home, and his intimacy with other women.

W. P. ROWELL.

The foregoing documents are made public to rebut and disprove the many slanderous reports that are constantly sickening the public mind, from a perusal of Bennett's letters. There are somethings among these statements that necessity, for our reputation as a religious society, has compelled us to make public, which decency and humanity would have gladly dropped with the rest of their infamy into their proper receptacle.